SOURCE OF SHOTS - PRESIDENT'S WOUNDS

Statements of Witnesses - B. J. MARTIN
Deposition - April 3, 1964, 6 H 289-93.

Martin had been with the Dallas police more than 10 years. He is a motorcycle officer, one of two riding left rear flank on the Presidential car (p.289). The other was B. W. Hargis. Martin identified the first shot as a shot. He identified his position as about 5 feet to the left of the Presidential car and 6 to 8 feet to the rear, in conformity with the observations of Baker and others, and in clear and important dispute with the statements of Secret Service witnesses and of positions adopted by the Commission. This close proximity between the two cars is borne out by the Altgens photograph and is an important factor in any reconstruction. The Commission ignores it.

He said that at the time of the first shot "we were alongside the front end" of the Secret Service car.

This would appear to be confirmed by a shadow in the Altgens photograph. (p.290) Hargis was closer to the Presidential car.

Another important identification in his testimony, again in complete conformity with the many witnesses the Commission chooses to ignore, on the location of the Presidential car at the time of the first shot: "Mr. Ball. Did you look?

Mr. Martin. Yes, sir; I looked back to my right.

Mr. Ball. After which shot?

Mr. Martin. After the first shot.

Mr. Ball. You looked to your right?

Mr. Martin. I looked back to my right." (p.291)

If Officer Martin turned his head, as he said, at the time of the first shot, then the time of the first shot is prior to frame 171 of the Zapruder film (Exhibit 885, Vol. XVIII). The Commission, which has the entire film, has used none of them prior to frame 181. Exami-

nation of the film does completely confirm Officer Martin's testimony about the location of the motorcycle and the proximity of the Presidential and the followup cars, as can be clearly seen by comparing the length of the shadows of the cars with the sun area between the two.

After turning to his right, Martin then "Looked at the President after I heard the shot and he was leaning forward - I could see the left side of his face. At the time he had no expression on his face." (p.291) After they got to Parkland, Martin had a chance to look around and Ball asked if he noticed any stains on his helmet:

"Mr. Martin. Yes, sir; furing the process of working traffic there, I noticed that there were bloodstains on the windshield on my motor and then I pulled off my helmet and I noticed there were blood stains on the left side of my helmet.

Mr. Ball. To give a more accurate description of the left side, could you tell us about where it started with reference to the forehead?

Mr. Martin. It was just to the left - of what would be the center of my forehead - approximately halfway, about a quarter of the helmet had spots of blood on it.

Mr. Ball. And were there any other spots of any other material on the helmet there besides blood?

Mr. Martin. Yes, sir; there was other matter that looked like pieces of flesh.

Mr. Ball. What about your uniform?

Mr. Martin. There was blood and matter on my left shoulder of my uniform.

Mr. Ball. You pointed to a place in front of your shoulder, about the clavicle region?

Mr. Martin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. Is that about where it was?

Mr. Martin. Yes.

Mr. Ball. On the front of your uniform and not on the side?

Mr. Martin. No, sir.

Mr. Ball. That would be left, was it?

Mr. Martin. Yes; on the left side.

Mr. Ball. And just below the level of the shoulder?

Mr. Martin. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. And what spots were there?

Mr. Martin. They were blood spots and other matter." (p.292)

I cannot pretend to understand this or to be able to evaluate what significance it has. I do know it strikes me as quite unusual. Martin was in the outermost of the 2 left-hand motorcycles. If the tiny segment of the Zapruder film between the sprocket holes can be properly read, at the moment of impact, Hargis was ahead of Martin at that point and Martin is not visible. From the other film, it is clear there can be little distance between them. But how could all this be on his left side unless he was turned to his right? It was the right side of the President's head that was so badly injured, and the President was not turned noticeably to the left, nor was his head cocked in that fashion.

Nonetheless, the Commission had enough credible testimony on this point to justify exploring it, interpreting it, or disproving it. It did none of these things. (p.292)